



**Luzerne County Council
Voting Session
August 09, 2022
Council Meeting Room
Luzerne County Court House
200 N. River Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
AND
Video/Teleconference via ZOOM**

MINUTES

Call to Order

The Luzerne County Council convened for a Voting Session in the Council Meeting Room of the Luzerne County Courthouse on August 09, 2022 at 6:15 PM. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair John Lombardo.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Roll Call

Present

Carl Bienias
Kevin Lescavage (virtually)
John Lombardo
Lee Ann McDermott (virtually)
Tim McGinley
Matt Mitchell
Chris Perry
Brian Thornton
Stephen J. Urban
Gregory S. Wolovich, Jr.

Absent

Kendra M. Radle

Also Present

Randy Robertson, County Manager
Harry Skene, Chief County Solicitor
Sharon Lawrence, Clerk of Council

Recognitions and Ceremonial Proclamations

NONE

Deletions from Voting Session Agenda

Motion to move Work Session Item 6 (White Haven Letter of Support) to the Voting

Session by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Work Session Item 6 is moved to the Voting Session as Item 10

Adoption of Voting Session Agenda

Motion to Adopt Voting Session Agenda by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Vote:

Ten (10) Ayes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

The Voting Session Agenda is Adopted

Attorney Skene commented on the Executive Session. He stated that Council met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss employment matters and legal issues for cases having possible settlement on.

Vice Chair Lombardo introduced Nescopeck Volunteer Fire Department Chief Harry Knorr. Chief Knorr spoke about the fatal fire that killed 10 family members. County Manager Robertson also spoke and noted several fund raisers taking place. A moment of silence was held for the victims of the fire in Nescopeck.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

WRITTEN comments are submitted electronically via EMAIL or ZOOM. A copy of the full written comment for each speaker is posted under the corresponding meeting agenda. VERBAL comments can be heard in their entirety by accessing the public comment portion of the meeting recording posted next to the meeting agenda.

Joe Czarnecki (Dallas) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Kara Kruger (Plains) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Ian Rollison (Wright Township) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Sheila Saidman (Kingston) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Rhonda Rabbitt (Luzerne) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Deb Jordan (Sugarloaf) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Chris Gillis (Shavertown) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Walter Griffith (Trucksville) commented Verbally regarding agenda Item 4, the appointment of the Head of Administrative Services and transparency.

Peter Ouellette (Pittston) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding the Nescopeck fire and drop boxes.

Mark Shaffer (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

TJ Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Michael Susek, Director of Elections (Lafin) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes. Vice Chair Lombardo advised Mr. Susek he could speak further on the matter during the Voting Session.

Denise Davis (Black Creek Township) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Vice Chair Lombardo read Public Comment Emails from:

Claudia Glennan (Salem Township)

Denise Williams (Shavertown)

Walter and Robyn Kochan (Dallas Township)

Motion to adopt minutes of the July 26, 2022 Voting Session

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Perry

Vote:

Nine (9) Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. SJ Urban

Motion Passed (9-1)

The July 26, 2022 Voting Session Minutes are Adopted

Agenda Items

1. Motion to approve ARP Announcement and Application

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Bienias

Ms. Booth provided a presentation on the application and notice.

Motion to approve ARP announcement and the addition of a minimum 5% match to the application by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Motion on the Amended Item by: Mr. Bienias

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

2. Motion to approve Budget Calendar and Process

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Mitchell

Motion to Table by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Ms. McDermott

Motion Passed (9-1)

Motion is Tabled

3. Motion to adopt resolution Approving the Settlement of Pending Litigation in the Matter of Kimberly Karavitch v. Luzerne County, et. al

Motion by: Mr. Wolovich

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Adopted

4. Motion to adopt resolution Confirming the Appointment of the Head of Administrative Services

Motion to appoint Jennifer Pecora at a salary of \$94,500.00 by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vice Chair Lombardo opened PUBLIC COMMENT:

TJ Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented.

Ian Rollison (Wright Township) commented.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented.

County Manager Robertson commented.

Roll Call Vote:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Two (2) No by Mr. Lescavage and Mr. Thornton

Motion Passed (8-2)

Resolution is Adopted

5. Motion to Introduce ordinance Amending the Administrative Code at Section 7.01(A) by Adding Section 7.01(A)(1) Issuance of Electronic Equipment

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. SJ Urban

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) No by Mr. McGinley

Motion Passed (9-1)

Ordinance is Introduced

6. Motion to Introduce ordinance Amending the Administrative Code Adding Section 7.03(A) Prohibitions, 7.03(A)(1) Election Drop Boxes and 7.03(A)(2) Automatic Section Repealer of 7.03(A)(1)

Motion by: Mr. SJ Urban

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Six (6) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lescavage, Mr. Lombardo, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Four (4) No by Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Perry

Motion Passed (6-4)

Ordinance is Introduced

7. Motion to adopt ordinance Amending the Capital Plan Budget for Luzerne County

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Thornton

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Ordinance is Adopted

8. Motion to allow Leonard Dalmas to advertise County-owned property for sale

Motion by: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

9. Motions regarding the former Juvenile Detention Center Property

Motion to Remove from Table

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Ms. McDermott

Roll Call Vote:

Ten (10) Yes – Unanimous

Motion Passed (10-0)

Resolution is Removed from Table

Motion to adopt resolution Authorizing the County Manager to Renegotiate the Sales Agreement Between Luzerne County and Castillo Real Estate LLC for the former Juvenile Detention Center Property

Motion by: Ms. McDermott

Second: Mr. McGinley

Motion to Amend Resolution to \$30,000.00 by: Mr. Perry

Second: Mr. McGinley

Roll Call Vote to Amend:

Eight (8) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Two (2) No by Mr. Lescavage and Mr. Thornton

Motion Passed (8-2)

Resolution is Amended

Roll Call Vote to Adopt:

Nine (9) Yes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. Thornton, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

Mr. Lescavage was disconnected from the Call

Motion Passed (9-0)

Resolution is Adopted

ADDED ITEM:

10. Motion to approve White Haven Center Letter of Support

Motion by: Mr. Thornton

Second: Mr. Wolovich

Roll Call Vote:

Nine (9) Yes – Unanimous

Mr. Lescavage was disconnected from the Call

Motion Passed (9-0)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

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**Vice Chair Lombardo read PC Email from:
Cindy Brannan (Wright Township)**

Jaelyn Roughsedge Norris (Larksville) commented Verbally regarding the closure of First Hospital and the Luzern County Prison.

Kara Kruger (Plains) commented Verbally regarding informed voting.

TJ Fitzgerald (Wilkes-Barre) commented Verbally regarding elections and the Election Bureau.

Mark Rabo (Hazleton) commented Verbally regarding drop boxes.

Ian Rollison (Wright Township) commented Verbally regarding demographics and population.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. McGinley

Second: Mr. Bienias

Vote:

Eight Ayes by Mr. Bienias, Mr. Lombardo, Ms. McDermott, Mr. McGinley, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Perry, Mr. SJ Urban and Mr. Wolovich

One (1) Nay by Mr. Thornton

Mr. Lescavage was disconnected from the Call

Motion Passed (8-1)

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Lawrence

Clerk of Council

* Audio of this meeting can be found in its entirety on the County Council webpage <http://www.luzernecounty.org/county/luzerne-county-council> or by contacting the Office of the Clerk of Council at (570) 825-1634 or via email to sharon.lawrence@luzernecounty.org